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FACTS AND FIGURES.

Mass Meeting Addressed by the Premier at New Westminster---Equal Justice by the Administration to all Sections of the Province Alike Clearly Proved---Parliament Buildings and Redistribution Policy of the Government Triumphant Vindicated.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 10, the Hon. Theo. Davie, in response to a numerous signed requisition, presented to him a few days previously, delivered an address in Herring's Opera House, New Westminster, to a packed audience, there being present in the body of the hall well known men from various sections of the district.

Ex-Mayor W. B. Townsend occupied the chair, and seated upon the platform were Messrs. J. C. Brown, James Punch and C. B. Sword, members of the Legislature, Mayor Curtis, and Ald. Hoy, Ovens and Sinclair.

The chairman briefly stated the object for which the meeting was called, observing that he hoped the Premier would receive a fair hearing. He felt assured that he would, so that it could not be said that the leader of the Government had come to New Westminster and had been denied a hearing. He hoped they would be true to their traditions. To show to a Mainland audience that the Government had done what was entirely right was a heavy task. If the Premier succeeded in doing so, so much the better man was he.

The Premier's Speech,

On coming forward Mr. Davie was received with applause. He said: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: It affords me much pleasure to meet you this evening for the discussion of political matters. I have been informed by some, that so strong was the feeling in this district against the Government that it would be useless for myself, or any member of the Government to endeavor to address a public meeting, and that we would be simply hooted from the stage. Now being assured that I have a reasonable explanation to give of political matters, I flatter myself that I have gauged public opinion in this city, and in this district, much better than my informants. I know perfectly well that in this district, as well as everywhere else, there is the British principle of fair play

and everybody who has a right to demand a hearing will be heard. I was perfectly satisfied when I was told that resolutions had been passed at Vancouver and in this city, condemning the Government and calling upon Mr. Punch, who has supported the Government, to resign, that that was not the deliberate action of those who were disposed to hear both sides and determined to exercise their own judgment; I was satisfied that those meetings did not fairly represent the people and I think every man will agree with me, that fair-minded men would not pass a vote of censure until the Government had been given an opportunity to be heard. I am glad of the opportunity of addressing not only this large and representative gathering, but shall be, to address others in the district, either here or elsewhere. I will endeavor this evening to set political matters before you in their true light--what I deem to be their true light--and I hope I will succeed in doing so. (Applause.) Much of the agitation which has culminated in getting up the petition to the Governor-General has been the work of those who desire to, and who live in fact, by disturbing the public mind. (No, no, and applause.) I don't say they earn their living, but I say that is their living, these agitations. I am not blind to the fact that there is a feeling here of something which should be explained, a feeling of unrest, a sentiment of danger to come, which, although not fully developed, and not yet, with some, very deep-seated, yet is of such a nature as to call for explanation. I should not represent the Government of this Province were I not to be the first to accord with this expression of sentiment on the part of the people. Now, as I have already said, I hope that with reasonable men I shall be able to allay any feeling of distrust and to clear up matters, without any exception. I say it is with that knowledge, and with the courage of my conviction

tions in the matter, that I now come before you. It is a fact that the only paper in this city has misrepresented the Government's actions, and the facts of the case in every way, and this I shall endeavor to prove. The Vancouver morning paper is similarly misrepresenting things. I shall speak deliberately and lay before you

Facts and Figures

in such a way that they can be taken down and published. An effort has been made to spread abroad the belief that the Government wishes to rule this country with a policy of rank injustice. That, upon the face of it, is a proposition which must condemn itself in the mind of every reasonable person. Anyone would be simply insane to want to govern a country with a policy of injustice towards a portion of it, and if it is shown to me that I cannot administer the affairs of this country in a way acceptable to the right-thinking men of the community, by doing justice to all sections, I do not wish to hold the reins of power a single day. [Applause.] Let us take as a text the petition which is being gotten up to the Governor-General. I will give it consideration for the time being, which is more than this document will get when it reaches the hands of those for whom it is intended. The people to whom this document is addressed are bound to admit the principles of responsible government. As you make your bed, so must you lie. You remember a few months ago there was an agitation in Nova Scotia regarding the coal deal there, on account of what was said to be the Government giving away large properties to the United States. The Governor General was applied to; but was there anything done? No; they were told the Legislature was autonomous; and that will be the answer which will be given to this petition when it reaches Ottawa. Therefore, I say—and truthfully, too—that I am about to give this document more consideration than it will get when it reaches the hands of those to whom it is addressed. The petition says:

"That, owing to the rapid increase in the population of certain parts of British Columbia since the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Legislative Assembly of the Province has not been for many years representative of the people of the Province; that the said Assembly is non-representative to an extent entirely subversive of the principle of responsible government, as the subjoined statements from the returns of the last general election will show: The Mainland, with 9,025 registered voters, returned 17 members. The Island, with 6,535 registered voters, returned 16 members. The Province is divided into 18 constituencies, with a total registered vote of 15,560. Of these voters, 12,691 are registered in seven constituencies, which elect 16 members, and the remaining 2,869 voters are registered in 11 constituencies, which elect 17 members. At the last general election the seven constituencies registering 12,691 voters returned only four members as supporters of the Government, while 11 small constituencies, having 2,869 voters, returned 16 Government supporters; and one of the four Government supporters elected by a large constituency having resigned before the meeting of the House, his place was supplied by an opponent of the Government. At a meeting of the House, therefore, we had (giving each member his proportion of

the votes registered in his constituency) 19 members who were supporters of the Government, representing 4,576 registered voters; 14 members who were not supporters of the Government, representing 10,984 registered voters.

"And the petition of the undersigned further sheweth that at various times before and since the last general election, and particularly in the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of the House in January last, a measure providing for a just redistribution of representation has been promised, the words of His Honor's speech being: 'The time has arrived when the altered conditions of the Province demand a change in the method of popular representation in the Legislative Assembly, and a measure of redistribution will, therefore, be submitted to you.' That this often-repeated promise has not been fulfilled."

Now, it is said that the Government has deliberately broken faith with the community in this matter. Fortunately, what has been said by the present Government and other Governments is upon record, and can be referred to by anybody. In April, 1890, as many of you will remember, a deputation waited upon the Government at Victoria during the session of the House and pressed their views in the matter of redistribution. The Government of the day candidly discussed the subject in all its bearings. I will read you some few extracts of what was said and what was understood to be done at that meeting:

Mr. T. Dunn—Is it the intention of the Government, when the census is taken, to redistribute the seats then, or to wait for four years?

Hon. Mr. Robson—There is no intention to wait for four years. As to the first part of the question, it will depend upon the result of the census taking. If that does not justify any further redistribution, there will be none. I assume as a matter of almost certainty that it will justify it, but one cannot tell.

Hon. Mr. Davie—As soon as the census is taken we shall be in a position to bring down legislation. We do not want to wait four years, assuming the result renders a redistribution necessary.

A member—But this balance of power seems to keep hold, and they may say: "No, we have the balance of power, and we are going to keep it for four years."

Hon. Mr. Robson—All we claim now is that there are no conditions known to exist to justify disturbing the balance of power, but to wait until the census is taken.

Another member—Are we to understand, if this redistribution takes place after the census, that it is to be on the lines of the whole, and without respect to the division between the Island and Mainland?

Hon. Mr. Robson—I think there can be no doubt about that at all.

A Member—It seems to me that is the root of the whole question.

Hon. Mr. Robson—If the census shows it necessary, then the time has come for a new departure.

That was the text of the Hon. Mr. Robson's remarks at that time in which I fully concurred, and by that you were told that what is known as the balance of power as between the Island and the Mainland would not be upheld for a moment but that there should be a general redistribution of seats between those sections of the Province, the Island and Mainland, based upon the population of those places; and that is the position we assumed in 1890, it is the position assumed by the last House and the position I assume to-day. At that time the voters' lists had not been revised with any particularity. I may here say that in September a

revision of the voters' list will take place, and we will endeavor to see that the revision will be thorough. Then there were other things we might have proceeded upon, for instance, the number of school children on the Mainland and on the Island and in the different districts. Unfortunately, that gave no indication whatever. You would have found the numbers on the Island were slightly in excess of those on the Mainland and for months you would have found it to be about even—very little distinction between them.

The School Going Population.

I saw Dr. Pope, the Superintendent of Education, and I think he showed me there was a difference of just about nine in school children. We took the registry of births, deaths and marriages for the purpose of seeing if we could arrive at a conclusion in this matter, and that was not satisfactory; in fact, the preponderance on the Island was shown to be over and above the Mainland. I could very well understand how this may be. Upon Vancouver Island the returns could more accurately be got at, whereas on the Mainland you have not the returns so accurately. That being the case, I could understand why it was found that there was a greater preponderance of births, deaths and marriages than upon the Mainland. So in these matters I did not feel the test would be a just one, and it was decided to wait until the census was arrived at, and when that was received we would know exactly what to do. I have read you what occurred. Now, the Dominion census, or final return of the Dominion census which was issued some time last month, shows the total population of the Province to be 98,178 people. We had bulletins issued from time to time before that, which gave the population at that same figure, but it was not in the condensed form that you have it now. Now, when the House was opened, there seemed to be sufficient data to form a Redistribution bill. Our intention was to be governed principally by population, so far as Mainland and Island were concerned. We found that the returns showed, on the Mainland 61,406, on the Island 37,767, of which 61,406 42 126 were in the district of New Westminster, including the city of Vancouver and this city and outlying districts. That made a very favorable showing for New Westminster district. While the census gave the nationalities the bulletins showed nothing whatever to indicate the race of any one, and there was no distinction between the child of a white man or of an Indian. They were simply classed as British Columbia born, and that is what you find to be the case now. We, as I have said, took the general returns and came to the conclusion that the return justified the redistribution, and I think you will see that the promise was made in good faith by the Government. Most certainly if we had not intended to carry out our promise we would simply

have been silent, and we could have done that with some show of reason and justice. It is true that the Hon. Mr. Robson had made this promise, but we could have said, "We are not bound by Mr. Robson's promise to bring in an act for redistribution." That is the position we could have taken, but having determined to bring in a redistribution measure, we had no hesitation in promising it. Now after the session had opened we had to go into the returns closely, because we had to draw our act, and justify ourselves to the House and country. The first thing that came to our attention was the Indian figures. We at once sent a telegram to Ottawa to find out how this matter stood and I shall place in your hands to-night a paper showing the telegrams which passed between the Government of the Province and Ottawa:

February 26, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Deputy Minister Agriculture, Ottawa: Please wire total of Indians on Mainland, B. C. Also total Indians on Vancouver Island.

February 27, 1893.

J. Lowe, Deputy Minister Agriculture, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Total Indians on Mainland, 29,460. On Vancouver Island, 5,742.

February 27, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Does total population of B. C. given in Bulletin 5 include Indians?

February 28, 1893.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Population in Census Bulletin relative B. C. includes Indians.

February 28, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Please wire number of Indians in each of the five B. C. districts.

March 1, 1893.

J. Lowe to Hon. J. H. Turner: Following subdivisions by agencies, Indian population slightly in excess of figures given. West Coast, 2,864; Cowichan, 2,048; Kerakeweth, 1,905; Okanagan, 878; Williams Lake, 1,803; Fraser River, 4,338; Kamloops, 2,401; Kootenay, 696; Northwest Coast, 4,001; Babine, 2,645; bands not under agency, 11,796.

March 24, 1893.

Hon. J. H. Turner to J. Lowe, Ottawa: Your telegram of the 27th February gives total Indians, Mainland, 29,460; Island, 572. Bulletin gives total population B. C. 98,178. Deducting Indians, this leaves white population B. C. 62,971. Is this correct? State how many whites on Island and how many on Mainland. Please wire reply as soon as possible.

March 24, 1893.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. J. H. Turner: Whites on Island, 31,02; on Mainland, 31,916.

Startling Returns---Government's Policy Vindicated.

Now, this was rather startling, and indicated a discrepancy somewhere or another; but exactly how to get at the matter we could not tell. These were the official returns we had before us. Had we attempted to bring down a bill based on anything else than the white population, every man in the country would have condemned us; had we refused to be guided by the census and the interpretation of the census placed upon it by those put there to interpret it, we would have been condemned, and justly too, by every person on the Island. They would have said, "You have promised us representation on the white population;

there is the white population, why have you not done it?" We were not prepared to forego our pledges in this matter; but what could we do but do exactly as we did? There is no great harm done in postponing this matter to the next session. We shall have to then, if the census cannot be relied upon, get our returns from somewhere else, and bring forward a measure for the purpose without regard to the Island, and without regard to the Mainland or anything else except justice to the people. (Cheers.) I wish to quote a further telegram since the House rose, by which you will see how thoroughly in good faith the Government is in this matter. As I said, we were satisfied that there was some mistake in these returns, while at the same time we had Mr. Lowe's statement that they were correct, and which we were not in a position to prove was wrong. I have been told, and it may be an explanation of the matter, that Mr. Lowe's figures, which he gives, are arrived at by deducting certain Indians which he ought not to deduct; that he had deducted some 11,000 Indians as whites that are really Indians; and that there ought to be added 11,000 to the population of the Mainland of British Columbia. This may be the result; but allow me to tell you that when the truth comes out, you will have, and this country will have, the benefit of it; because I tell you that redistribution as between Mainland and Island will be chiefly according to population. (Cheers.) We have been blamed because we did not immediately jump to an explanation which Mr. Brown gave in the matter. How could we have jumped to his conjectures without getting more accurate returns? We don't want guess work; we want facts. [Hear, hear.] We want returns so that we can keep our promise. The consequence is that we were bound to get accurate returns. What do we find is the position of our assailants in this matter? You will find it in this morning's *News Advertiser* under the heading "Census Farce," the following:

According to a dispatch from our correspondent at Ottawa, which we published on Sunday, the Finance Minister of this Province has been compelled to accept the census returns from British Columbia as substantially correct.

Now, I beg to say that Mr. Turner has been obliged to do nothing of the kind. Mr. Turner has gone East, and one of his principal objects is to find out how this census matter stands. It may be that the census will be acknowledged to be correct as regards the number in the Province taken as a whole—white men, Indians, Chinese and all—and in that view of the matter it may be perfectly right; but to accept the classification as correct is a very different matter, and that is what Mr. Turner has gone there for—to ascertain the classification; to find out whether, after everything has been investigated, Mr. Lowe still insists on adhering to the figures; and if he finds out he is wrong, to discover where the discrepancy lies. I may tell you that the returns in this Blue Book seem to be mixed up so as to

conceal the true classification in the Province, yet I am assured by the enumerators themselves that when we get the returns you can find out exactly how many Indians have been included. I thought at one time I had found something. I came across a column where they gave the nationality both of the father and mother; and although there are some white children whose fathers and mothers have both been born in the Province, yet they are not very many, and you can judge whether they are whites or not; but we found out that those born in British Columbia are simply classed as Canadians, so the number of Indians, so far as the book is concerned, is simply sealed. If you will take the returns, you will be able to find out the truth of the matter. The *News Advertiser* goes on to say:

No one who has given any amount of study to the question ever entertained the idea for a moment that he could do anything else. Neither, we may believe, did the Finance Minister himself nor the remainder of his colleagues in Victoria. The stupid blunder of deducting about 12,000 Indians from the population of the Mainland who had never been included in the census returns had merely to be exposed to completely upset the flimsy pretext for deferring a measure of redistribution.

Now, if that be the correct view of things who is the blundering party? Is it the Government? All we have done is to send to those parties to give us the returns, what were the Indians, what the Chinese and what were the number of the whites and he has assumed to give them, and if there is any mistake it is there, not with us. Now allow me to read the last telegram from Mr. Lowe:

April 18, 1893.

J. Lowe, Ottawa, to Hon. The Hon. Davie, Premier: Population British Columbia absolutely as follows: Vancouver Island—Indians, 5,325; Chinese, 3,183; whites, 28,239; total, 36,747. Mainland—Indians, 29,634; Chinese, 5,727; whites, 26,043; total, 61,406.

This is the return that the *News Advertiser*, the organ of the agitators here, says has to be taken is correct, and that no sensible man can suppose anything else. These are facts I am telling you, and what is more, I am going to give a copy of those documents to everyone who wants them by which you can see for yourself. Have I ever pinned my faith to that return? Have I not said from the first that I believed that the returns are wrong and inaccurate? Now, I know that to every reasonable person in this audience I have given a satisfactory explanation of this matter of redistribution. The Government could not have done otherwise than it has done, and every honorable man should uphold me in this matter. Anyone who has not his feelings, his reason and convictions blinded by prejudice will see that the Government is honest in the course it has taken, and I hope you will take these documents and read and digest them, and ascertain whether the Government is right or wrong on the stand it has taken on the question of redistribution. If you go through the census you will find that great pains are taken to divide every district up,

large and small, into limited sections for the purpose of taking the census. So much so is this done that in Victoria they give you the population by wards. Esquimalt and Cariboo, and counties in the East are divided into small districts, but when you come to New Westminster there are only three districts, New Westminster, New Westminster City, and Vancouver. Neither New Westminster nor Vancouver is separated into wards as is Victoria. New Westminster district is evenly divided into three bald sections, and we cannot find out how the population is distributed. As regards this particular portion of the Province there has not been the attention to details there certainly ought to have been.

Idle to Speculate; Facts Must be Proved.

It is perfectly idle to speculate how Mr. Lowe reached the figures he did. If you could demonstrate to a unit the way in which he arrived at his mistake there would still not be satisfaction. What you want is something you can show that will justify the action taken in this matter.

Mr. Brown's Argument a Justification of the Government.

Argument such as that used by Mr. Brown, Mr. Cotton and others, showing how absurd these Dominion returns are is merely the strongest kind of justification of the Government's action.

Reasons for Delaying Redistribution.

All that the Government have ever contended is that there is something radically wrong about these returns, and it is for the purpose of setting these wrongs right that they have delayed the matter of redistribution. There can be an early session next year and then a Redistribution bill will be brought down, based principally, so far as Mainland and Island is concerned, upon the population.

They tell us that "at the last general election seven constituencies, registering 12,691 voters, returned only four members as supporters of the Government, while 11 small constituencies, having 2,869 voters, returned 16 Government supporters, and one of the four Government supporters elected by a large constituency having resigned before the meeting of the House, his place was supplied by an opponent of the Government," and so on.

Cities Not to Have All the Representation,

Now, this inaccurate data boiled down means this, that the cities where you find the centres of population should have almost the entire representation. If that is what these petitioners are contending for, I may tell you that no such representation would be permitted in any country under British rule. You have got to give outlying districts representation. It is a very nice thing in the abstract to have "one man

one vote." That is all right when you apply it to the city, but outside of the city you are in a different position altogether; and I think you will say that is the rule adopted elsewhere. Take Toronto for instance. Put the population of Ontario down at not quite 2,250,000. Toronto has nearly 200,000 inhabitants, but has only three representatives in the Provincial Legislature. If Toronto were to return one-tenth, she would get more than ten members. So the city of Ottawa, with a large population, returns one member; as does Hamilton. The same rule applies to Montreal, Quebec, London, and all other Eastern cities. They are not treated according to population as between themselves and outlying districts, but there is a general distribution of the representation made, bearing in mind the equities and rights of the whole. It is not just that a man who has a farm, upon which he has brought up his family and spent all his money, time and labor, should have no more to say as regards political matters than the first man you meet on the streets in a crowded city; and no just man would contend for such redistribution as that. (Applause) Now, having said what I have to say on this subject, I shall proceed to deal with the question of the Government buildings in Victoria.

New Parliament Buildings.

It has been said that I would not find it so easy to defend the action of the Government in this connection. I should not have said anything about it, but I believe in "taking the bull by the horns" in all cases—(applause and uproar)—and if contrary to my expectations I were prevented from getting a hearing, every fair-minded man could only come to the conclusion that if the Premier of the country in attempting to explain the policy of his Government is hooted down, the people do not want to hear the truth. I am perfectly independent in this matter. I came here desiring to get a fair hearing, and I expect to get it. (A voice, Go on, go on.)

Now we are told that, "whilst protesting its inability to meet the demands of all sections of the Province for larger expenditures on works of development," the Government has taken power to borrow \$600,000 to meet the first estimate of the cost of public buildings. This exaggerated way of putting it infers there are large sums to be expended afterwards. I can only repeat the assurance that there is no such intention. The contract has to be given for the work, and we do not expect the country to justify the expenditure of any sum exceeding \$600,000. Public buildings were required, and had to be erected somewhere; and if erected at Chilliwack, or Vancouver, I suppose we would not have heard very much complaint. If you go into the old buildings now you will find that the roof of the Legislative Assembly hall is leaking. I was in there the other day, after a rainstorm, and there was a pool

of water back of the Speaker's chair from the roof. In the Attorney-General's office the roof leaks in several places. How could these structures be otherwise, erected, as they were, some 30 years ago, and built of wood with a brick veneer? It has been said we might go along for years without putting up new buildings. "We do not want to interfere with the Capital in any way." I know that there is no question about moving the Capital. I do not think there would ever be any agreement as to where to bring it, if changed. But it is said you could get on with these buildings for a long time. Well, of course, we could make patch-work of them and spend large sums of money every year in making repairs. From \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year could be expended for that purpose for years to come. A few years ago the repairs and additions amounted to \$20,000, and \$30,000 would be within the mark of what has been spent there during the last four years. At the present time there has to be a carpenter employed on these buildings constantly. No one found fault with the \$75,000 expended last year for the erection of a fire-proof land registry office. Then it has been said that it would be far better to spend this money in opening up roads, streets and bridges. Even if the Government could build roads and take a road to every settler's door, how much dissatisfaction would be caused by those who would not get the roads just where they wanted them? [Applause.] Spend that \$600,000 how you like, you would have just as many dissatisfied persons as you would have satisfied ones. You would have complaints from Cariboo to Comox of favoritism by the Government. Let us consider what this really means, this expenditure: It has been put to you as if it meant \$600,000 thrown down in a lump sum and taken from a depleted treasury. The expenditure means exactly the yearly sum for a sinking fund to pay off the loan and the interest. What does that amount to? I got the auditor to make me a computation of what the sinking fund and interest would amount to.

Financial Condition of the Province.

As you are aware, the financial condition of the Province is excellent. The credit of the Province stands nearly equal to any other colony in the world. (Cheers.) British Columbia's 3 per cents are now quoted at 93 to 93½. Now, at 93, the interest would be £3 4s 6d per cent. In order to realize a sum equal to \$600,000 bonds sold at 93, it would require an issue of about £133,333, and the annual interest thereon would be £3,999, or \$19,384. The cost to the Province on the above basis would be annually, interest \$19,384, sinking fund \$6,000, total \$25,384; and at the end of 50 years it would be paid off. These are not my computations; they were made by the Provincial auditor. Now, I would like to know, if \$25,000 is going to be expended for this purpose every year, how much that sum

distributed over the whole Province is going to shorten the funds available in building roads and making permanent improvements. When you take the \$5,000 for repairs into account, you still have it to reduce the \$25,000 with. Say the yearly expenditure is from \$300,000 to \$500,000 upon roads, streets, bridges and public improvements, I say what figure does the sum of \$20,000 cut in respect of this expenditure? It is not worth mentioning. Victoria and district, in common with the rest of the country, are entitled to their share in the distribution of public moneys, and in apportioning that, this expenditure will of course be taken into consideration. The same may be said in regard to the traffic bridge across the Fraser. So that there is no more injustice in appropriating \$20,000 for the purpose of sinking fund and interest upon the \$600,000 for the buildings, than in appropriating \$15,000 for seven years for the bridge across the Fraser. You will say this is only temporary. That may be, but the member for the district, when the time comes, will, I expect, present a strong case for an increased grant.

Expenditures on the Mainland.

It was said that the Mainland was unjustly dealt with in the matter of public appropriations. I deny that, and shall prove to you that in the matter of appropriations for public works the Mainland has had its full quota of justice. When the delegation came to Victoria in 1890 it was not denied that this was the case. The delegates admitted that this district had been fairly dealt with at that time. Let us look over what has been expended during the last three years on the Mainland and on the Island. You will find that for public purposes, everything outside of the civil government salaries, and the cost of maintaining the Government, there has been spent on Vancouver Island—in 1890, \$173,840; in 1891, \$163,263; and in 1892, \$208,088; or a total of \$545,191. On the Mainland what do we find? In 1890 there was spent \$337,293; in 1891, \$335,462; in 1892, \$433,362; a total of \$1,106,117, or more than double what was spent on Vancouver Island. (A voice, Show the revenue.) Yes, I shall proceed to do so. During that time the revenue derived from the Island, inclusive of land sales, was \$585,542 01, leaving a balance over and above expenditure of \$40,401 01 to go into the general purposes of the Government. Upon the Mainland the total amount of the revenue was very much larger; it was \$1,249,060 19. (Cheers.) Take from that the amount actually expended on the Mainland, and you have a balance of \$142,943 19 returned to the treasury for the purposes of the general government of the country. So that on the Island you have \$40,401 01 returned to the treasury of the revenue of the country, over and above the appropriations; and on the Mainland, \$142,943 19 to the treasury of the revenue of the country. Do these

figures show any injustice as regards the Mainland? And a further consideration of the facts will show still further how justly and fairly this portion of the Province has been dealt with. If you take the Shuswap & Okanagan Railway, it first got a lump sum of \$200,000, which was afterwards changed to a guarantee of interest equal to \$50,000 for 25 years. A similar guarantee was passed last session in aid of the Spence's Bridge & Nicola Valley Railway, and a guarantee of interest on \$800,000 or thereabouts on the Nakusp & Slocan Railway—a line calculated to open up and aid in developing the mining resources of Kootenay. To come nearer home, there was a guarantee passed of 2 per cent. upon the bonds of the Chilliwack Railroad to the extent of \$500,000. [Cheers.] It is true that the guarantees have been so arranged that the public revenue is not likely to be seriously encroached upon; but still the fact remains that the credit of the country has been pledged for these works. As against these railways, what do you find on Vancouver Island? The Victoria & Sidney Railway is the only one, and there the Government takes an obligation of \$6,000 and the city of Victoria of \$9,000. Besides the appropriations and aids to railways, there was aid to quartz mining in Cariboo of \$74,509, and you have a small expenditure for a woolen mill in this place of \$3,000, and \$37,500 towards a bonus for the C. P. R. coming to New Westminster; and you have \$15,000 a year in aid of the bridge across the Fraser, which it would have been difficult, if not impossible, for the city itself to raise. Take a glance over these facts—facts that cannot be challenged—and ask yourselves if the Government of the country is treating you so badly? (A voice: No, no.) Matters do not stop here. In the first place, the revenue from the Mainland is only \$1,249,000. In this I have included the land sales, and the same upon Vancouver Island, and have shown that you have had the revenue raised upon the Mainland expended here in public works, education, surveys and so on—all of it, sir, with the exception of about \$149,000; and the same thing is true of the Island, which has had similarly expended the revenue collected there within \$40,000.

Sales of Public Lands.

Now the proceeds of the sale of the land of the Province does not belong to any particular portion of it, and any land sales are entitled to be distributed for the benefit of the people generally. The Mainland had no particular claim to the land revenue being expended here. What did the land sales amount to during those three years? They amounted to \$491,310 upon the Mainland. Take that from \$1,249,000 gross revenue, and what have you got as the net revenue? You have \$757,749.39. That puts the matter in another shape altogether. You have then the revenue considerably less than the expenditure, the expenditure being \$1,106,117, with a revenue of \$757,749, leaving

\$348,367 of a deficit. On Vancouver Island the revenue was \$585,572.01, the land sales being \$149,659.82. Deduct then the land sales and take the revenue from the expenditure and you have an excess of expenditure over revenue of \$119,278.81.

Expenditure in Municipalities.

I would like to ask you, sir, whether any of these municipalities, Surrey, Langley, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam and the others, have not received back their contribution of taxes to the general revenue! Take one year's showing, there is a total expenditure in municipalities outside Vancouver and New Westminster of \$62,340.62 for roads and schools. What do you find the revenue is that has been received from these places? According to a return handed me it is the sum of \$16,618.23. I think I have now shown you that this part of the country has been fairly treated by the Government. I have shown you that the fear of injustice in the matter of redistribution has no foundation in fact, and I am sure that every reasonable man will admit that there is no occasion for this agitation petition. I have been informed that this movement is spreading. If it is spreading it is merely among those who are not informed in the matter. I have been told they have formed a Government for the country, and even have appointed the members of their cabinet. They expect, no doubt, to do great things, for themselves, when the new "kingdom" comes. Here is a country that has, say 100,000 of a population. Do you suppose the proposal is going to be listened to for one moment that we should have two separate Provinces. The thing is too ridiculous, and every sensible man must see that those getting up these petitions are simply making fools of themselves, and the people who sign the petitions ridiculous. Now, having shown the determination of the Government to deal fairly in this matter and all other matters before the country, I would draw your attention to the kind of encouragement given by the morning organ at Vancouver when it writes that no matter what the Government may do they are to have no credit for it. In the House of Assembly Mr. Brown and Mr. Cotton claimed to wish to act with the Government in bringing down a fair measure of redistribution. They say, let us have representation according to population. They want to cut off the country districts—pocket boroughs they call them. The two smallest of these country constituencies are Alberni and the Islands. Yet, would you believe that both Mr. Brown and Mr. Cotton in the Legislative Assembly advocated the Islands and Alberni retaining their representatives, and the same with Cariboo. A nice bait to hold out to these people. Their insincerity was shown by their professions. In some things they had been ingenuous foes. I feel I have trespassed unduly on your forbearance. (No, no.) Whatever opposition I might have expected to encounter, I felt

there was a sufficient spirit of justice and fair play to give me the impartial hearing which you have done to-night, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, for the kind manner in which you have listened to my exposition of the policy of the Government of which I have the honor to be leader. (Loud and long continued cheers.)

Mr. J. C. Brown M.P.P., having at some length addressed the meeting.

The Premier, being called on to reply, said: I have not very much to say. The hour is growing late, and I fear your patience has already been considerably taxed. As to this placard which Mr. Brown says came from Chilliwack, I tell you that that is the first I saw of it, or heard of it, or that I was instrumental in getting it up. Perhaps some misguided friend thought it would do very well to make this announcement, although nobody at all had the slightest authority from me to do it. I have not the slightest objection, however, to go to Chilliwack or anywhere else where the people might wish to hear any remarks from me. [Cheers.] I have very little to say in reply, and were it not for the purpose of putting one matter straight, and which I should have referred to in my opening remarks, I do not know that I would have thought it necessary to make any reply. The matter I wish to speak of is the proposal to guarantee the incorporators of the Canada Pacific or British Pacific Railway to the extent of \$6,000,000. Now, allow me to say, as regards that matter, all that has been said on the subject is what we are bound to say—what any Government must say regarding any proposition—that it will receive consideration; but up to the present moment no proposal has been made which the Government can deal with. No proposition in a business shape has been placed before the Government, and whether it will be or not I do not know; but should it be so, I am sure we will deal with it in a business like way. Let me tell you another thing: there would be no power on the part of the Government to give any aid to this company of any kind whatever. It would have to come before the House for that purpose; and supposing it were to do so and were to be carried by a "mechanical majority," as my honorable friend Mr. Brown would call a majority of the members, before any legislation in the matter could have any effect whatever, before anything could be done, the House would have to go to the people, because the next session is the last of this House. So the consequence is, I do not care how desirous the Government might be to aid that measure, the matter would not assume any definite shape whatever until placed before the people;

and if this present House in its dying hours, in the last days of the session, chose to pass such a measure as is outlined here, the people, if not pleased with what was done, would have it in their power to nullify it. Upon that matter you may feel perfectly safe. The people would have it in their own hands to reverse the thing almost immediately afterwards. (Applause.)

Mr. Brown says there is no movement on foot for separation. I read that which purported to be a copy of the petition to be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General, and I am certain a reference was made therein to separation, and the following paragraph, I think, will convince any one of Mr. Brown's misconception of what it means. It reads:

That, therefore, the people of the said Mainland portion of British Columbia object most strongly to the squandering of the provincial resources in non-productive undertakings, by the vote of a non-representative House, and are now advocating the separation of the Mainland from the Island as the surest means of relief from the evils under which they at present suffer.

As regards the question of the proportion in which you are to have distribution according to population here, that is the whole question over again. We must find out what is the true position before we can do anything. Indians who do not pay taxes are not taken into consideration at all. Mr. Brown has referred to everything except the last telegram from Mr. Lowe; and, twist it and turn it as he may, there is the absolute statement of Mr. Lowe, the Deputy Minister, as short a time ago as the 18th of April. He is asked how the matter actually stands in view of all the circumstances, and he says the British Columbia figures are as follows:

Vancouver Island—Indians.....		5,325
Chinese.....		3,183
Whites.....		28,259
Total.....		36,767
Mainland—	Indians.....	29,634
	Chinese.....	5,727
	Whites.....	26,045
Total.....		61,406

That is what he says; that is what the Dominion Government says as regards this. We asked them for the correct figures, and they give us these. We think there is something wrong, and are desirous to have it put right for the satisfaction of the people, so that we may have a correct basis on which to form our Redistribution Bill. As regards the Government, so long as it is in power, it will endeavor to do justice to the whole country. The Government has every intention of carrying out its whole duty to the Province according to the promises given, and will do what is fair and square in the matter. [Loud cheers.]